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A LETTER

TO

LORD ROBERT SEYMOUR:

WITH

A REPORT

OF

THE NUMBER OF LUNATICS AND IDIOTS

IN

ENGLAND AND WALES.

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BY SIR ANDREW HALLIDAY, K.H. & M.D.

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LONDON:

THOMAS AND GEORGE UNDERWOOD,  
32, FLEET STREET.

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1829.

3/6

LONDON:

J. MOYES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.



TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD ROBERT SEYMOUR,

&c. &c. &c.

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MY LORD,

THERE is no man now living to whom the following Report can be addressed with half so much propriety as to your Lordship. I shall, therefore, offer no apology for thus bringing your respected name once more before the public. The interesting subject to which it relates is one that has long engaged your almost undivided attention; and the important information it contains has been constantly sought for by you with unwearied zeal and unceasing anxiety. That this information is still in some measure imperfect, is certainly to be lamented; but

how can it be otherwise, since, in collecting it, I have had to struggle against (worse than the cold indifference) the opposition of some official men, and all the common difficulties that assail a private individual? My energies have been cramped, and my sphere of usefulness restricted, yet my zeal has in no measure been lessened; and, in as far as it goes, your Lordship will find that this Report presents a very fair view of the statistics of insanity in Great Britain. It is calculated to set at rest a question that involves much of our character and conduct as a Christian nation, and that affects more or less, in all their relations, the happiness and comfort of every member of the community.

The prevalence of insanity in England is no new doctrine. Foreigners of all countries have universally asserted it, and many amongst ourselves have implicitly believed the assertion; but, up to the present moment,



the soundness of that doctrine has been firmly disputed and combated, though, as one of its ablest opponents candidly confesses, “little else than conjecture has ever been brought forward on the subject.” Now, however, I am enabled to lay before your Lordship and the public a series of returns, authentic and tolerably accurate, which not only shew that insanity, in all its forms, prevails to a most alarming extent in England, but that the numbers of the afflicted have become more than tripled during the last twenty years!

If such, then, are the melancholy facts which it will no longer be possible to dispute, it would argue, in my opinion, a consciousness of criminal negligence were we to attempt longer to conceal them. Our inattention, I verily believe, has arisen more from our ignorance of the extent of the evil and of its rapid increase, than from either inhumanity or indifference to the sufferings

of our fellow-creatures. And so convinced have I been of this, that, from the first moment that my attention became directed to the subject, I have endeavoured to obtain and to promulgate as true a statement as possible of the numbers and condition of the insane poor in the several divisions of the British empire. I felt that, until we had ascertained with some degree of certainty the extent of the existing evil, it was almost impossible to recommend or to carry into effect any measures that were calculated to correct, far less entirely to remove it. My early representations and communications to the public, though anonymous, were so appalling, and found to be so true, that they led to the Select Committee of 1806-7, where we have, in the report of that committee, the first attempt that was made to obtain an official return of the number of the insane poor in England. How unsatisfactory that return proved, I need not mention to your Lord-

ship. The committee could not discover more than *two thousand two hundred and forty-eight* lunatics and idiots in the whole of England and Wales; while I proved to them that *two hundred and thirty* existed in two counties (Suffolk and Norfolk), from which not a single lunatic or idiot had previously been returned.

Again, my Lord, I can appeal to your own recollections for the unsatisfactory nature of the returns called for by the committee of 1815, though the numbers they gave more than doubled the returns of 1807. Hence the urgency with which I recommended the insertion of that clause in the late act, which requires “that the justices of the peace, acting in and for every county in England and Wales, shall, at their several petty sessions, held next after the 15th of August in every year, issue their warrants to the overseers of the poor, to return lists of all insane persons in, and that are supported by, their respective



parishes ;” and hence the eagerness with which I have availed myself of the information to be obtained by means of such returns, to prepare the Report which I have now the honour most respectfully to submit to your Lordship and the public.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest respect,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship’s very faithful and obedient

Humble Servant,

ANDREW HALLIDAY.

*HAMPTON COURT,*

*Sept. 24, 1829.*

A REPORT  
OF  
THE NUMBER OF INSANE PERSONS  
IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES.

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ENGLAND.

BEDFORD.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 40,385 } *Total* .. 83,716  
                  { Females.... 43,331 }

THIS is an inland county, about thirty-six miles in length by twenty-two in breadth. The surface is, in general, diversified with low hills and valleys, together with some extensive level tracts; and on the south a ridge of chalk hills rises to a considerable elevation. The western and eastern parts of this county are in many parts sandy; the centre is flat, and three-fourths of the whole is judged to be alluvial soil, with very few minerals, though gold, it is said, was discovered formerly at Pullox hill. A great part of the land was formerly uncultivated and waste, but the whole has now been enclosed, and either brought into

cultivation or planted with trees. The chief products of the county are corn and butter. Its manufactures are confined almost exclusively to the plaiting of straw and making of thread lace, in which nearly three-fourths of the whole of the female population are employed, and they are taught to earn their livelihood at a very early age; but of the whole population about two-thirds are employed in agriculture. The clerk of the peace states the total number of lunatics and idiots returned by the parishes to be *thirty-two* males and *thirty-one* females. Fifteen males and twenty-two females are confined in the public asylum (a well-arranged and well-conducted establishment, that does honour to the county), but seventeen males and eleven females are either allowed to be at large or are taken care of by their relations, though of these *six* males and *six* females are reported dangerous. It is remarked by the clerk of the peace, that several parishes had failed to make any return: this is very evident,—for in the county asylum, by the last report of that hospital, there was a total of seventy-one patients; so that there are here *thirty-four* persons to be added to the numbers given by him, which makes the total number of insane persons ascertained to be in the county of Bedford not fewer than *ninety-nine*. The weekly expense of each person in the public asylum is about nine shillings; and there are no private asylums in this county.



## BERKSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 65,564 } *Total*.. 131,995  
                   { Females..... 66,431 }

This is also an inland county, about forty-eight miles in length by twenty-eight in breadth, but its figure is very irregular. It is said to contain a superficial area of about 476,161 square acres, of which about 30,000 acres are waste, and the rest arable; but not much more than one-half of the population are employed in agriculture. A considerable portion of the eastern part of Berkshire is occupied by Windsor Forest and what is called Bagshot Heath. This county was once one of the principal seats of the clothing manufacture, which was carried on until the middle of the seventeenth century; but it has now entirely declined, and only cotton, sacking, paper, blankets, and some silk on a small scale, are manufactured in different places. At Temple Mills there is a very large manufactory of copper-sheathing, ship-bolts, &c., the ore being raised in Anglesey, smelted at Swansea, and brought to Berkshire in barges, to the extent of from six hundred to a thousand tons yearly. The soil may be said to be chalk, with strata of fossil shells; and at one place, to the south-west of Reading, a stratum of sand occurs at various depths from fifteen to twenty feet, intermixed with large quantities of oyster-shells. The total number of lunatics and idiots in the county, as

returned by the clerk of the peace, is stated to be *sixty-one* males and *seventy-three* females. *Fifteen* males and *thirty-four* females are reported as lunatics, and the remaining *forty-six* males and *thirty-nine* females idiots. *Eighteen* males and *thirty-three* females are said to be in confinement, most of them in poor-houses. Windsor Castle, the town of Windsor, and Eton College, are in this county; but it does not contain any public, nor even a private, asylum for the treatment of lunatics.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 64,876	}	Total..134,077
	{	Females.... 69,201	}	

This is an inland county, forty-five miles in length and about eighteen in breadth, and containing a superficial area of 478,720 square acres, of which 328,000 are arable or in pasture, and 50,000 in wood; and about three-fifths of the population are employed in agriculture. The south-eastern part is hilly, being occupied by what are called the Chiltern hills and their appendages, on which are considerable woods and plantations, principally of beech. The other parts of the county, particularly the Vale of Aylesbury, are noted for their fertility, and the county is celebrated for its corn and its cattle, which are its principal produce; for, except a little marble and fuller's-earth, and some red ochre, there is no mineral of any importance in Buckinghamshire.



The chief manufactures are lace and paper. The former has been long established, and employs most of the poorer class of females. A few are also employed in straw-plaiting; and there is a cotton manufactory at Amersham. The total number of lunatics and idiots in this county is *sixty-eight* males and *seventy-seven* females. *Nine* males and *sixteen* females are reported dangerous. *Eight* males and *thirteen* females are in confinement (*eleven* in public, and *ten* in private asylums); but there is neither a public asylum nor any private establishment in this county.

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 60,301 } *Total*.. 121,909  
                               { Females..... 61,608 }

This is an inland county, extending about forty miles in length from north to south, and about twenty-five miles in breadth from east to west. A considerable tract of land in this county is distinguished by the name of the Isle of Ely, and consists of fenny ground, divided by innumerable channels and drains. This level, it is supposed, was formerly overflowed in some violent convulsion of nature. The air in this district is damp, foul, and unwholesome; but the south-east portion of the county is much more salubrious. The soil in the Isle of Ely is soft and spongy; but in the uplands, to the south-east, it is productive and well cultivated, and about three-fifths of the

population are employed in agriculture. In this county the town and University of Cambridge are situated, in which a great number of strangers are constantly resident. It does not contain any public or private asylum for the reception of lunatics; and although I have not been furnished with any official return by the clerk of the peace, the Act of Parliament having escaped the notice of the magistrates in several divisions of the county, the private information with which I have been furnished states the number of lunatics and idiots at *sixty-one* males and *seventy-three* females.

#### CHESHIRE.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 132,952	}	Total..270,098
	{	Females.. 137,146	}	

This is a county palatine, which, on account of its fruitfulness, was anciently called the Vale Royal of England. It is about forty-five miles long and twenty-five broad. The country is, in general, flat and open, though it rises into hills on the borders of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and contains several forests, one or two of considerable extent. The soil is rich and fertile, though large tracts consist of heath and moss, which are only made use of for cutting fuel. There are extensive salt springs in this county, from which a great quantity of salt is manufactured; but its chief agricultural produce is cheese; and

only about one-third of the population are employed in agriculture. The soil, where it is cultivated, is considered very productive, by means of a rich marl that is found in great abundance; and the grazing is reckoned the best in England. Independent of those employed in the manufacture of salt, and in digging the rock salt from the mines, a very large proportion of the people in this county are engaged in the manufacture of cotton and of buttons. The number of lunatics and idiots is very considerable, being stated at *one hundred and seventeen* males and *one hundred and eighteen* females; eighty-nine only being lunatics, and *one hundred and fifty-two* idiots, four being left undefined. I have received no statement of the numbers in confinement.

#### CORNWALL.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 124,817	}	Total..257,447
		Females.. 132,630		

This is the most western county in England, and is bounded by the sea on the south, west, and north. Its greatest length is nearly seventy-nine miles, and its greatest breadth about forty-three. The air, though damp, is generally mild; snow seldom lies upon the ground, and the climate is remarkably healthy. The country is open, but the soil is very unproductive in as far as regards agriculture, though peculiarly rich in minerals.



The crops are seldom equal to the consumption of the inhabitants, of whom not much more than one-third are employed in agriculture, and by far the greater part are engaged in working the copper, lead, and tin mines,—the latter having been for many ages the peculiar and most valuable product of the county. The inhabitants of Cornwall are distinguished from those of the other counties of England by several peculiarities in their habits and employments. Their language was a dialect of the Celtic, and generally spoken till about two centuries ago, which constituted them a distinct colony; and though now, I believe, extinct, the people still remain in a great measure an unmixed race, and are, as it would appear, more exempt than common from mental diseases. The total number of insane persons in the county is only *fifty* males and *fifty-three* females, paupers; and about *thirty* not paupers. There is a very excellent public asylum in Cornwall, in which twenty-two paupers are confined, and maintained at an expense of ten shillings per week for each person. There are twenty-one paupers reported as in confinement with their relations; and the expense of these is said to be from six shillings and sixpence to one shilling and sixpence for each person weekly. The county asylum will contain eighty patients, and at present there are fifty under treatment in that establishment.

## CUMBERLAND.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 75,600 } Total.. 156,124  
 { Females.... 80,524 }

This county is about fifty-five miles in length from north to south, and thirty-eight in breadth from east to west. The air, though cold, is less piercing than might be expected from its situation. It is partly an agricultural and partly a pastoral district, the face of the country being delightfully varied by lofty mountains, fruitful valleys, and extensive lakes. The mountains are rich in mineral productions; and about one-third of the population is employed in agriculture. The manufacture of cottons is carried on to a great extent, and employs the largest portion of the inhabitants, while the remainder are engaged in working the mines and in following a seafaring life. The lunatics and idiots in this county amount to *forty* males and *fifty-two* females. *Five* individuals are said to be confined in a public asylum, and *seven* only in private houses; so that the greater number must be harmless idiots. There is no public or private asylum for the treatment of lunatics within the bounds of the county of Cumberland.

## DERBYSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 105,873 } Total.. 213,353  
 { Females.. 107,480 }

This county, which lies in the middle of England, is somewhat of a triangular form, and

measures about forty miles from north to south, and about thirty from east to west. It is divided into two parts by the river Derwent. In the eastern division the air is mild and the temperature agreeable, the soil fruitful, and well cultivated; but in the western division the face of the country is rude and mountainous, and the soil, except in the valleys, rocky and sterile. The mountains in Derbyshire produce considerable quantities of lead ore and some antimony, and abundance of that particular mineral so well known as the Derbyshire spar, a combination of lime with fluoric acid. A part of the population of the county of Derby is employed in the manufacture of silk and cotton; but the chief employment is the making of earthenware, and forming ornamental figures of the spar above mentioned. Not above one-third of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. The number of lunatics and idiots in this county is said to be *seventy-six* males and *sixty-eight* females. *Fourteen* males and *nine* females are returned as dangerous; and *seventeen* males and *twelve* females are in confinement, — *seven* in public and *twenty-two* in private asylums. There is no public or private asylum for the treatment of lunatics within the bounds of this county.

## DEVONSHIRE.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 208,229	}	Total.. 439,040
		Females.. 230,811		

This extensive county is sixty-nine miles in length from north to south, and sixty-six in



breadth from east to west, and on two sides it is bounded by the sea. The air is pure, and the climate generally mild, but the soil is very unequal. In the western parts of the county it is coarse, moorish, and barren, consisting of a stiff clay in many places, which retains the water on the surface; but in the northern division it is dryer, and there are large open downs that afford excellent pasture for sheep. The eastern division is well cultivated, and produces excellent crops of grain; but the southern is the most productive, and is known as the garden of Devon: yet not much more than one-third of the population are employed in agriculture. A portion are engaged as sailors and fishermen, some few employed in mining, but the greater number in the manufacture of woollen cloth and thread lace. Cider is the staple agricultural produce, and the common beverage of the people; and it is a belief, which I fear will in some measure be confirmed by this Report, that the use of that liquor is not very conducive to intellectual brightness. The number of lunatics and idiots in the county of Devon amounts to *two hundred and twenty-two* males and *two hundred and thirty-one* females, while only sixty-four individuals are returned as dangerous, and nineteen in confinement. In addition to the very large number returned by the clerk of the peace as paupers, there is one public establishment in the county, the asylum near Exeter, which contains at present fifty-one pa-

tients, and in the workhouse of that city there are several idiots; making the total number of lunatics and idiots in the county *five hundred and four* ascertained, and of which number more than four-fifths are idiots. There is only one licensed private asylum in the county, with three patients.

#### DORSETSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 68,934 } *Total*..144,499  
                           { Females..... 75,565 }

This county extends for about fifty miles from east to west, and about forty from north to south. More than one-half of its inhabitants are employed in agriculture. The soil in many parts is rich and fertile, though chalk is the most prevalent; and the fine open downs, which abound, afford excellent grazing for sheep and black cattle. Both linen and woollen cloths are manufactured to some extent. As this county is bounded on one side by the sea, a considerable number of people are engaged as fishermen and in ship-building. There are in this county *ninety-six* male lunatics and idiots, and *ninety-eight* females, returned as paupers by the clerk of the peace; but besides, there are two private establishments in the county, that contain at present forty-two individuals, which will make the total number of insane persons ascertained *two hundred and thirty-six*, of which number only *forty-one* are returned as dangerous. The towns of Dorchester, Weymouth, Bridport,



and Lyme Regis, had made no return to the clerk of the peace ; so that the whole number of insane individuals in the county is still uncertain. A gentleman of this county has given a magnificent instance of true charity, by providing for the wants of this helpless class of his fellow-creatures from his own private estate. — Brown, Esq. has founded and endowed a public lunatic asylum for the county of Dorchester.

#### DURHAM.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 99,100 } *Total*..207,673  
                           { Females... 108,573 }

This county, which is bounded by the German ocean on the east, is thirty-nine miles in length, and about thirty-five in breadth. The soil is very different in different parts, and its riches exist in the interior rather than upon the surface of the earth. Not more than one-fourth of the population are employed in agriculture, and the remaining three-fourths may be said to be wholly engaged in mining operations, or in following a seafaring life. The mountains contain the ores of lead and iron ; but the chief produce of the mines is pit coal, which is principally sent by sea to London. I have no official return of the number of pauper lunatics or idiots in this county ; but there are three private establishments, that contain at present *one hundred and twenty-eight* patients ; and my private accounts give, besides these, about *ninety* males and *one hundred* females,

which will make the total number about *three hundred and eighteen* insane persons. Durham has no public asylum.

### ESSEX.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 144,909 } *Total*..289,424  
                           { Females.. 144,515 }

This county, bounded also on the east by the German ocean, extends for forty-seven miles from east to west, and for about forty-three from north to south. The soil is rich and productive; but a great part of the county being low and marshy, it has always been reckoned unhealthy, and, I should say, particularly so along the banks of the Thames and the whole of the sea-coast, where intermittent fevers almost constantly prevail. More than three-fifths of the population are employed in agriculture, as London affords a constant market for every species of produce. There was formerly a considerable manufacture of woollen stuff in Essex, but it is not of much importance now. A considerable portion of the inhabitants are employed in the oyster and other fisheries. The number of lunatics and idiots in the county is *one hundred and fifty-six* males and *one hundred and fifty-six* females, as returned by the clerk of the peace; and there is one private asylum that contains *sixteen* patients, making the whole number in the county *three hundred and twenty-eight*. Only four males and thirty-nine females are reported dangerous; but twenty-

three males and thirty-eight females are in confinement,—thirty-seven in public asylums, and twenty-five in private houses.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots 160,451 \\ \text{Females} \dots 175,392 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 335,843$

This, which may properly be called a manufacturing county, is about fifty-six miles in length and twenty-two in breadth, and is formed, as it were, by nature into three divisions; the eastern, hilly and pastoral; the middle, level and highly cultivated, producing excellent crops, and affording good pasturage for cattle; hence the excellent cheese so well known all over England; but not above one-third of the inhabitants are employed in any kind of agricultural labour. The forest of Dean, the third division, was once, what its name imports, covered with wood, great part of which has now been destroyed. There are mines of coal and iron in this part of the county; but the principal occupation of the people is the manufacture of woollen broad cloths, for which Gloucestershire has long been famous. The lunatics and idiots amount to *ninety-four* males and *one hundred and four* females. Twenty-six males and fifteen females are reported dangerous, and forty males and thirty-five females are in confinement,—fifty-five in the public asylum of the county, and twenty in private asylums. There is one public and three private lunatic asylums in



this county, which contain at present one hundred and twenty patients, from which deduct the numbers given in the return of the clerk of the peace, we shall have *two hundred and forty-three* persons as the total number of the insane in Gloucestershire.

#### HEREFORD.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 51,552 } Total..103,243  
 { Females..... 51,691 }

This is an inland agricultural county, about thirty-five miles in length from north to south, and thirty miles in breadth from east to west. The soil is extremely fertile, yielding very fine pasture, great abundance of corn, and excellent orchards. Cider is the common drink of the people, and is exported in considerable quantity. The manufacture of woollen cloths is also carried on in this county, and some few families are employed in the manufacture of gloves and in the leather trade. The number of lunatics and idiots, as returned by the clerk of the peace, is *eighty-eight* males and *fifty-one* females. Six males and twenty-three females are returned as dangerous, and fourteen males and thirty-one females in confinement, most of them in private houses, with their relations. Besides the above, there are six patients confined in the lunatic cells attached to the county infirmary. One is confined in the county gaol, one in the Gloucester asylum, two in private

madhouses, and three in workhouses; making the total number of insane persons belonging to the county *one hundred and fifty-two*. There is one private asylum in the county.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 64,121 } *Total*..129,714  
                           { Females..... 65,593 }

This county, which may be said to touch upon the metropolis, is thirty-six miles in length from north to south, and twenty-eight in breadth from east to west. The air is reckoned remarkably pure, and the soil in general rich and well cultivated, as more than one-half of the population are employed in agriculture, and the other half may be said to be maltsters or millers and corn-dealers. The total number of insane paupers in the county is *fifty-three* males and *thirty-nine* females. Forty-five individuals are confined in public and private asylums in the county of Middlesex, and forty-seven are at large, and taken care of by their relations within the county. There is one private establishment in Herts, which contains ten patients; so that the total number of insane persons in and belonging to this county will be *one hundred and two*. There is no public asylum; and from a return in my possession it appears that St. Luke's and Mr. Warburton's houses receive its lunatic paupers.

## HUNTINGDON.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots\dots 24,020 \\ \text{Females} \dots\dots 24,751 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 48,771$

This small inland county is only about twenty-four miles in length from north to south, and eighteen in breadth from east to west. The soil is good and productive; but, on account of the fens, it is not a healthy county. In the dry lands the pasturage is good, though inferior to that of the low lands, which afford the richest meadow grass; and more than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the whole county are employed in agriculture. Stilton, a village in Huntingdon, has become celebrated for its rich cheeses, though few are now made at that place. The total number of insane persons is *seventeen* males and *nineteen* females, and only one (a male) is reported dangerous. Two females are confined in a lunatic asylum, and one male, a criminal, in the county gaol; but the return of the clerk of the peace is not complete, as forty parishes had failed in making any report to him.

## KENT.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots\dots 209,833 \\ \text{Females} \dots\dots 216,183 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 426,016$

This extensive county is about fifty-six miles in length from east to west, and thirty-six in breadth from north to south. It possesses a great variety of soil; and what is called the weald is low, swampy, and unhealthy, though intermittent



fevers are not so prevalent as in Essex. In the agricultural districts the farmers generally raise great quantities of hops; but it is also a grain country, though not much more than one-third of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. Possessing a long line of sea-coast, it has many seafaring people, and many thousands are engaged in the illicit trade of smuggling. Kent has very few manufactures, and its trade is chiefly confined to such articles as are the produce of the county. The uncertainty that attends the trade of a smuggler, and the dissipation and irregularities that it leads to, may in some measure account for the great number of lunatics and idiots that are found to exist: they amount to more than *three hundred and thirty-six*, one hundred and eighty-five being returned as lunatics, and one hundred and fifty-one as idiots; but these numbers are exclusive of the Cinque Ports and other corporate towns in the county, from which no returns have been received. Upon a very moderate calculation, the total number of insane persons in this county will exceed *five hundred*. The magistrates have lately determined on building a county asylum. As far as I have been able to ascertain, there is only one private asylum in the county, at West Malling Place; but I have no account of the number of patients in this establishment.

## LANCASHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 512,496 } *Total*..1,052,879  
                           { Females.. 540,383 }

Lancashire is about fifty-seven miles in length from north to south, and thirty-two in breadth. A considerable portion of the county is either stony and barren mountain, or bleak uncultivated morass, though draining and cultivation have been carried on to a great extent during the last quarter of a century. Bounded on the west by the Irish sea, this county has a long line of coast, and the inhabitants of its large and populous sea-ports are most extensively engaged in foreign trade, as well as in home manufacture, and scarcely one-tenth of the population is employed in agriculture. Besides the extensive cotton manufactories, to which children are entered at a very early age, and which may be said to form the wealth of the county, there are also silk and woollen manufactures, and mines of coal, lead, copper, iron, and antimony. Manchester and Liverpool rival the metropolis in wealth and in wretchedness; and the influx of strangers to these and the other large manufacturing towns in Lancashire, renders it difficult to obtain any accurate account of the state of disease among its natives. By the return of the clerk of the peace, the number of pauper lunatics and idiots in the inland parishes is stated to be *one hundred and seventy-two* males and *one hundred and seventy-one* females. Of these numbers, forty males and



forty-four females are confined in the county asylum; while five males and eight females are in workhouses, and not less than seven males and one hundred and forty-two females are taken care of by their relations. Only four male paupers and sixteen females are in private asylums. There are two excellent public asylums in this county; one near Lancaster, and the other at Liverpool. The first contains two hundred and eighty-nine patients, and the last one hundred and sixty. In the county asylum, near Lancaster, the expense of each patient is not above seven shillings weekly. There are also five private licensed asylums within the county, which at present have altogether one hundred and thirteen patients; so that the total number of insane persons ascertained to exist in this large and populous district will stand thus:—

In the county asylum at Lancaster.....	289
In the public asylum at Liverpool .....	160
In workhouses .....	93
With their relations or friends.....	149
In private asylums .....	113
<hr/>	
Grand total in the county .....	804

[Males and females nearly equal.]

And of that number three hundred and forty-three are reported as parish paupers. The number above stated is certainly very great, but it must be borne in mind that the population exceeds a million; consequently, that the proportion of lunatics and idiots is not even so great in this

county as in many others, where, if we had not the facts before us, we should have conceived it to be far otherwise. It is not so much the *quantity* as the *quality* of labour that seems to debilitate the physical powers of man, and derange the material instruments of his mind. It is in the agricultural districts that insanity is found to be most prevalent, and also where there is a certain degree of ease and indolence, with a half-cultivated state of the mind. Insanity, as Dr. Burrows has well observed, is a disease of civilised life.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 86,390	} Total.. 174,571
	{	Females..... 88,181	

This inland, and formerly agricultural, county extends from east to west about thirty miles, and about twenty-five from north to south. The face of the country is varied and agreeable, and it is remarkably healthy. The soil, where rich, is well and fully cultivated, and where hilly and gravelly, as on the borders of Lincolnshire, it is dry and excellent for sheep grazing. A considerable quantity of stockings are made in this county, and this may be said to have once been the only article manufactured to any extent, the dairy and sheep farming being the chief occupation of the people; but cotton manufactories are now found every where, and not much more than one-third of the inhabitants are agriculturists. The lunatics and idiots in this county



amount to *one hundred and seventy*, (eighty lunatics and ninety idiots); but the sexes are not distinguished. This is a greater number, in proportion to the total number of inhabitants, than is found to exist in the county of Lancaster, though not yet so great as in some counties where the agricultural population is still more numerous.

### LINCOLN.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots 141,570 \\ \text{Females} \dots 141,488 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 283,058$

This extensive and rich county is nearly sixty miles in length and thirty-five in breadth. On the east, where it is bounded by the German ocean, and throughout the whole of the south-east division, it is level and marshy, and with difficulty kept from being overflowed with water. The fens of Lincolnshire have been compared with Holland, and at certain seasons are equally unhealthy; but in the middle of the county, and along the banks of the river Trent, the country is healthy, the soil rich and well cultivated; and very nearly two-thirds of the whole population are employed in agriculture. The lunatics and idiots in this county amount, by the returns of the clerks of the peace of its several divisions, (and which, I must remark, have been most correctly made out,) to *one hundred and eighteen* males and *one hundred and eleven* females. Only twenty-three individuals, included in the number above stated, are confined in the county asylum, — an establishment which, under the superin-

tendence of Dr. Charlesworth, and a board of intelligent governors, may be considered as one of the best-conducted establishments of the kind in Europe. The situation chosen was excellent; the arrangements for classification and treatment, moral as well as medical, are most complete; and, upon the whole, this asylum does honour not only to the county of Lincoln, but to the whole empire. There are, by the last returns, fifty-nine patients in the Lincoln asylum, which, being thirty-six persons above the number given in the returns of the clerk of the peace, they are to be added to the total stated in these returns, which makes the number of insane persons in this county *two hundred and fifty-eight*, of which two hundred and six are in poor-houses or with their relations.

#### MIDDLESEX.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots 533,573 \\ \text{Females} \dots 610,958 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 1,144,531$

This great metropolitan county of England, — the centre of her power and the seat of her government, — the place where laws are made, and where they are perhaps less attended to than in any other portion of the empire, — is said to be twenty-four miles in length, and scarce eighteen in breadth, but comprehends the two vast cities of London and Westminster. The air is mild; and, having a fine dry gravelly soil, the county may be said to be remarkably healthy and very productive; but the wealth and the poverty of its crowded cities are a never-failing nursery of



wretchedness and disease. Here all classes of society are gathered, as it were, into a focus; and the baneful effects of over-indulgence in one part, and starvation in another, are most fully evinced in the character and conduct of the people: yet the ravages of disease are not so apparent now as in former times; and many of the worst scourges of human nature are no longer to be found even in the most wretched corners of London.

The keeping of madhouses has long been a gainful trade in this county, and many have realised very large fortunes by the confinement of their fellow-creatures. The oldest public establishment in England is the royal hospital, called Bedlam; and it was long little better than a miserable dungeon for lunatics. There they were confined, but more as prisoners than patients; and it was like the Bastile of Paris—a prison from which few were ever liberated. About the middle of last century St. Luke's was formed by private charity: it is now a noble building, with large and permanent funds, which, while properly administered, cannot fail to be of incalculable advantage to the community: yet the situation and restricted space which it occupies prevent its ever becoming an eligible asylum for the treatment of lunatics upon the principles of moral management which have now been proved to be so beneficial.

The whole of the licensed houses in and

about London are under the superintendence of a board of commissioners, consisting of sixteen noblemen and gentlemen, and five physicians. It would have been more for the interests of humanity had the number been reversed, and that the board had consisted of sixteen physicians and five lords or gentlemen, as the subject ought to be viewed more as a question of medical treatment than as one of criminal police. What is called the metropolitan district extends over the whole of Middlesex and a part of Surry and Essex; and, according to the return printed by order of the commissioners, it contains thirty-five licensed houses, with a total of *two thousand and thirty-one* patients, of whom eleven hundred and fifty-four are paupers, and eight hundred and seventy-seven private patients. There are *two hundred and twenty-eight* patients in Bedlam, and *two hundred and eighty-five* in St. Luke's, making the total number confined in this district *two thousand five hundred and forty-four* persons, exclusive of those that are known to be at large, or are confined in workhouses, which, by a return made out some years ago by Mr. Browne, the present clerk of the commissioners, amounted then to a large number, and they have not decreased.

It is to be regretted that the late Act of Parliament has been so little attended to in this great county. Either the magistrates have failed in issuing their warrants as that act requires they should do, or the overseers of the poor have in-



curred the penalties which it inflicts ; for, up to the present moment, the clerk of the peace is unable to make out any correct return of the number of lunatics and idiots in Middlesex ; and it is the only county in England or Wales that is deficient in this respect.

#### MONMOUTH.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 37,278 } Total..71,833  
                               { Females.... 34,555 }

This is an inland county, twenty-nine miles in length and twenty in breadth, and about one-half of the population are employed in agriculture. The eastern part of the county was formerly much covered with wood, and the western is mountainous ; but the air is temperate and healthy, and the soil productive. The number of lunatics and idiots is *twenty-seven* males and *forty-five* females ; but only two males and two females are reported as dangerous, while two males and nine females are kept in confinement, one in a public asylum, and the others in poor-houses. The town of Monmouth and the town of Newport are not included in the return of the clerk of the peace.

#### NORFOLK.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 166,892 } Total..344,368  
                               { Females.. 177,476 }

This large and populous county, which is bounded on the east and north by the German ocean, is above fifty-seven miles in length and

thirty-five in breadth; and the agricultural and manufacturing population are nearly equal. There are, of course, a considerable number of seafaring men belonging to the county; but Yarmouth is the principal sea-port town. The face of the country is very varied, and in some districts marsh effluvia prevail, and the air is unhealthy; but in the interior, where the soil is cultivated to the best advantage, it is both healthy and pleasant. The number of lunatics and idiots returned by the clerk of the peace is *one hundred and thirty-one* in the county asylum, and *one hundred and seventeen* not under any confinement. There are also two private licensed houses in this county, that return twenty-two patients; so that the total number belonging to the parishes that have made returns is *two hundred and seventy* insane persons; but there were many parishes that had made no returns to the clerk of the peace; so that his report must be taken as considerably under the true numbers.

#### NORTHAMPTON.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 79,575	} Total.. 162,483
	{	Females.... 82,908	

This inland county, placed in the centre of England, is nearly fifty-five miles in length from south-west to north-east, and at its broadest part it does not exceed twenty-six miles. About three-fifths of the population are employed in agriculture; and the soil, though not the most productive, is well cultivated. The air is reckoned



very pure, and the face of the country level ; yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, the lunatics and idiots in the county of Northampton amount to *one hundred and sixteen* males and *one hundred and eighteen* females, entirely supported by their parishes. Only thirteen males and eighteen females are reported dangerous ; but thirty-six individuals are in confinement. The average proportion here is greater than in any other county of the same extent in England, being one to every six hundred and fifty of the population ; but I am not aware of any peculiarity in the soil or climate. Fuel is scarce and dear, which bears hard upon the poor, and saltpetre is an article of manufacture ; but, except in the fen lands in the neighbourhood of Peterborough, there is no part of the county unhealthy.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 95,354 } *Total*..198,965  
                           { Females.. 103,611 }

This northern border county measures about fifty miles from north to south, and about forty from east to west. It is bounded on the east by the German ocean, and on the north and west by Scotland ; and not more than one-fourth of the population are employed in agriculture. Indeed, a considerable portion of the county consists of heath and barren mountains. The great body of the people are employed in the coal mines, and in transporting the coals to London and other parts

of the kingdom ; while Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a large sea-port town in this county, has also a considerable foreign trade, and contains many seafaring people. The number of lunatics and idiots in the county of Northumberland is stated to be, for the inland districts, *seventy-four* lunatics and *sixty-seven* idiots ; the sexes are not distinguished : but for Newcastle alone, and the four parishes within its jurisdiction, we have, in Dr. Smith's asylum, sixty males and fifty-nine females ; and in the establishment at Belle Vue, sixteen males and ten females ; making the total number for the county *two hundred and eighty-six*.

#### NOTTINGHAM.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 91,491	} Total.. 186,873
	{	Females.... 95,382	

This, which is more a manufacturing than an agricultural county, is about forty-three miles in length from north to south, and twenty-four in breadth from east to west. The people are chiefly engaged in the manufacturing of stockings and cotton-lace, and not quite one-third are employed in agriculture. The soil, in one part, is a rich deep clay ; in another it is sand ; and there the remains of the ancient forest of Sherwood are still magnificent. This is a remarkably healthy county, and contains fewer lunatics and idiots, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, than almost any other county in England or Wales, except Cornwall, there being only *thirty-eight* males and

*thirty-seven* females, paupers, in the whole county, which, with *forty-five*, not paupers, makes the total number *one hundred and twenty*. There is a very excellent public asylum at Nottingham, one of the first county hospitals established in the kingdom; and, by the last returns, *seventy-six* patients were under treatment in that establishment. The reader cannot fail to observe, what has occurred to me again and again as most remarkable in the analysis of these reports, that throughout the whole of England, wherever the majority of the people are engaged in agricultural pursuits, the proportion of insane persons, especially idiots, is more than the general average in the manufacturing districts; and further, I think, it is evident that the manufacturers of cotton are not so subject to mental diseases as those engaged in the several branches of our woollen manufactures. Is it because the cotton spinners are employed from a very early age, and are a more ignorant class of the community? or is there any thing peculiar in the duties which the clothiers have to perform, or in the districts where this branch of our industry is more immediately carried on?

#### OXFORD.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 68,817	}	Total..136,971
	{	Females..... 68,154	}	

The greatest length of this county, from south to north, is about forty-two miles, and its greatest



breadth twenty-six. The atmosphere is remarkably pure, and the soil dry and well cultivated; and not less than three-fifths of the people are employed in agriculture. The manufacture of blankets has long been carried on at Witney, in this county; and it has been the seat of an University from time immemorial. There are not fewer than *sixty-five* lunatics and *eighty-one* idiots existing in the county; but the number of the sexes is not stated; and there are twenty-two parishes and places that have made no returns; so that the report of the clerk of the peace is still incomplete. Near the city of Oxford there is now a very excellent public asylum, upon a small scale, being built for fifty, but which, by the last returns, contained only seventeen patients.

#### RUTLAND.

POPULATION..	{	Males . . . . . 9,223	} Total..18,487
	{	Females . . . . 9,264	

This is the smallest county in England, measuring from north to south only fifteen miles, and from east to west not more than ten. It is altogether an agricultural district, as more than two-thirds of the people are employed in the cultivation of the soil. The lunatics and idiots are returned at *fourteen* males and *twelve* females. Fourteen of the above are reported as dangerous, (seven men and seven women); but only one man is in confinement. The proportion, even in this small county, is very considerable, being not less

than one insane person to every seven hundred of the population.

#### SHROPSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 102,056 } *Total*..206,153  
                   { Females.. 104,097 }

This is reckoned the largest inland county in England, being somewhat of an oval form, and extending for about forty miles in length from north to south, and thirty-three in breadth from east to west. The face of the country is mountainous, and the soil is very varied. The northern and eastern parts are abundantly productive, and nearly one-half of the whole population of the county are employed in agriculture. There are manufactories of cotton and woollen cloths, particularly of Welsh flannels and stockings, of some extent, in Shropshire, and considerable iron founderies. The number of lunatics and idiots ascertained is *fifty-eight* males and *sixty-five* females; but forty-six parishes have as yet made no returns.

#### SOMERSET.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 170,199 } *Total*..355,314  
                   { Females.. 185,115 }

This most extensive county, measuring nearly sixty miles in length and above fifty in breadth, is bounded on the north-west by the Bristol channel. The air is mild, and the climate particularly

healthy ; and the Vale of Taunton is perhaps the richest agricultural district in England. In a county so extensive, the soil, of course, as well as the face of the country, varies much. The cultivation of the teasel, a species of thistle, used for the dressing of fine cloths, and the eating the sea - plant called laver as food, are somewhat peculiar to this county. The Mendip hills contain lead and coal mines ; but the chief riches of the people consist in their woollen manufactures. About three-sevenths of the whole population are employed in agriculture, though the county has long been celebrated for its ale and cider and its Cheddar cheese. The lunatics and idiots in the county amount to *one hundred and forty-nine* males and *one hundred and seventy-one* females, paupers. Of these numbers, eighty-three males and ninety-five females are in confinement, but only forty-one of both sexes in lunatic asylums. There is no public asylum in this rich and populous county, but it contains not fewer than three private establishments, where eighty-six males and sixty females are kept in confinement. If we include in that number the paupers (forty-one) mentioned in the return of the clerk of the peace as confined in private asylums, we shall have one hundred and five to add to his return, which makes the total number of insane persons in the county *four hundred and twenty-five*.



## SOUTHAMPTON OR HAMPSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males . . . . 138,373 } Total..283,298  
 { Females .. 144,925 }

This is a maritime county, stretching along the English channel, and measuring about sixty-four miles in length from north to south, and thirty-six in breadth from east to west. It consists, for a great part, of open downs, and that extensive tract of woodland country called the New Forest, which was formed by William the Conqueror in the twelfth century. About three-sevenths of the whole population are employed in agriculture, while the rest are engaged in the manufacture of woollen cloths, or in following a seafaring life. The soil is principally chalk, and the climate is remarkably healthy. The number of lunatics and idiots in the county is *one hundred and thirty-one* males and *ninety-four* females, exclusive of the Isle of Wight, from which no return has as yet been received. Forty-three males and twenty-six females are said to be in confinement in public asylums, and one in a private asylum. There is no public asylum in this county; but there are two private establishments for the treatment of insane patients.

## STAFFORDSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males . . . . 171,668 } Total..341,040  
 { Females .. 169,372 }

This inland county, celebrated for its manufactories of china and earthenware, and for its

coal and iron mines and founderies, is about forty miles in length and twenty-six in breadth. The air is pure and healthy. The face of the country is varied by hill and dale, and the soil, in general, most productive ; but not more than one-fourth of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. The number of lunatics and idiots is stated to be *one hundred and six* males, and *ninety-one* females, all supported by their respective parishes. Thirty-six of that number are returned as dangerous, but it is not said how many are in confinement. Forty-three of the males and forty-five of the females are returned as lunatics ; the remainder are harmless idiots. Stafford has a very excellent county asylum, which at present contains one hundred and thirteen male and seventy-four female patients ; and in Mr. Bakewell's establishment at Spring Vale there are twenty-eight males and twenty-one females ; making a total of two hundred and thirty-six persons in confinement, which, with one hundred and sixty-one paupers stated to be at large, will make the total number of insane persons in this county *three hundred and ninety-seven*, or about one to every eight hundred of its inhabitants.

#### SUFFOLK.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 132,418	}	Total..262,550
	{	Females.. 130,132	}	

This county, which is bounded on the east by the German ocean, is forty-eight miles in length



from east to west, and twenty-four in breadth from north to south. About three-fifths of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture, and it is perhaps one of the best-cultivated districts in the kingdom. As it has a considerable extent of sea-coast, holds constant intercourse with the opposite shores, and has one or two well-frequented harbours, a proportion of the people must follow a seafaring life; but Suffolk may be taken as a fair average of an agricultural county, enjoying the advantages of good air, rich soil, and a well-enclosed regularly cultivated surface. The number of lunatics and idiots in this county amounts to *one hundred and thirty-one* males, and *one hundred and sixty-five* females, paupers. Of these, sixty-four are reported dangerous, but only twenty-four are said to be in confinement. The magistrates of Suffolk have lately erected a very superior county asylum, which, though only opened last year, has already ninety-three patients. There is a private establishment at Aspell, which has three patients; so that the number altogether in confinement is ninety-six. Twenty-four of these are paupers, mentioned by the clerk of the peace in his return as in the public asylum, which deducted from ninety-six, the whole number in confinement, leaves seventy-two to be added to the general amount of paupers, making the total number of insane persons in the county *three hundred and sixty-eight*.

In the winter of 1806-7, I made the most



minute inquiries with respect to the number of insane persons then in the county of Suffolk. I visited personally almost every parish, corresponded with the overseers of the poor of every district, examined every workhouse and poor-house, and every part or place where any individual was confined or reported to be confined; and I am certain I obtained as accurate an account of the number of lunatics and idiots in this county as it was possible, under any circumstances, to obtain such an account; and at that period they amounted to *one hundred and fourteen* persons, as stands recorded in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, printed in July 1807.

I examined at the same time, in the same manner, and with the same anxiety, the county of Norfolk; and, fortunately, the numbers (*one hundred and twelve*) ascertained to exist in that county have also been recorded in the same official document. Here, then, we have undoubted evidence, and the only evidence, I believe, that exists, of the very rapid increase of insanity in this country.

It will not be argued, I hope, that this disease has increased only in two of the richest and most healthy counties in the kingdom; for though I cannot bring the same demonstrative proof of the actual increase in any other of our counties, I am not the less satisfied that in all of them it has been equally great as in Norfolk and Suffolk, where,

as in the first mentioned, the number has been nearly trebled, and in the last considerably more than trebled, during twenty-two years. In Norfolk, where the excitement of manufacturing uncertainty and occasional distress has prevailed to a great degree in and about Norwich, and very frequently in other parts of the county, during the period to which my observations extend, it is to be noticed, that the increase of insanity has not been so great as among the more settled and regular agricultural population of Suffolk; and the relative proportions of the number of insane persons to the whole population is equally remarkable, as proving the truth of what I have already stated, that the disease is greatly more frequent in our agricultural than in our manufacturing counties. Norfolk, in a population of 344,368 souls, returns, as may be seen in my report of that county, two hundred and seventy insane persons; and although, as I have said, these are perhaps not the whole that exist in the county, yet we cannot suppose they are so numerous as in Suffolk, which, in a population of only 262,550 souls, gives a total number of three hundred and seventy-seven insane persons.

#### SURRY.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 189,871	}	Total.. 398,658
	{	Females.. 208,787	}	

This populous county, which may be said to include a proportion of the metropolis, extends for about thirty-four miles from east to west, and



twenty-one from north to south. It is a well-cultivated and open champaign country, abounding in hill and dale, but with considerable tracts of a light sandy soil, and of barren uncultivated heaths. Not quite one-fifth of the people are employed in agriculture; and the greater number may be included in the trade, the commerce, the manufactures, and the dissipation of London. The clerk of the peace informed me, that the total number of insane persons returned to him by the overseers of the poor was *three hundred and eighty*, but he has not distinguished the sexes; and he only further adds, that one hundred and twenty-five of the above total number were reported dangerous. The royal hospital of Bethlehem is now situated in this county, and seven or eight of the private asylums included in the London district, besides three others that are not so included; but the number of patients in these three establishments I have not been able to ascertain.

#### SUSSEX.

POPULATION.. { Males.... 116,705 } *Total*..233,019  
                           { Females.. 116,314 }

This large and extensive county, which is bounded on the south by the English channel, is said to be not less than seventy miles in length from east to west, and twenty-nine in breadth from north to south. It may be considered an agricultural county, as rather more than one-half of the population are employed in cultivating a



soil that is very varied in its nature and qualities. The Sussex downs, and the land from thence to the sea, abounds in corn and grass; but in the middle of the county the soil is more productive in grain. This county has no distinguishing manufacture, except gunpowder at Battel, and needles at Chichester; it exports, however, considerable quantities of wool, corn, and malt. The number of lunatics and idiots is said to be *eighty-six* males and *ninety-seven* females, of whom nineteen males and seventeen females are reported dangerous, and sixteen males and thirteen females in confinement. There is no public asylum in this large county; but there are two private establishments, which, by the last returns, contained ninety-two patients. If, then, we add these to the numbers contained in the return of the clerk of the peace, the total number of insane persons in this county will be *two hundred and seventy-five*,—about the average proportion throughout the kingdom.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

POPULATION..	{	Males.... 133,827	} Total.. 274,392
	{	Females.. 140,565	

This is an inland county, forty-seven miles long and thirty broad, where about one-third of the people are employed in agriculture, and the rest in manufactures, of which Birmingham is the centre. The number of lunatics and idiots that are returned as paupers amounts to *one hundred*

*and thirty-nine* males and *one hundred and thirty-seven* females, and of these thirty-eight males and thirty-six females are returned as dangerous ; and, independent of thirteen in public asylums and sixty in private asylums, eighty-four are confined in workhouses. There is no public asylum in the county ; but there are three private establishments, which, by the last returns, contained thirty-six male and forty-one female patients,—in all seventy-seven ; which is seventeen more than the number stated in the return of the clerk of the peace, and makes the total number for Warwickshire *two hundred and ninety-three*.

#### WESTMORELAND.

POPULATION..	{	Males..... 25,503	}	Total.. 51,349
	{	Females.... 25,846	}	

This northern county measures forty-two miles in length and thirty-two in breadth, and may be said to form a region of lofty mountains, barren rocks, dreary forests, and bleak moors. The greatest proportion of the people are employed in agriculture ; but there are some considerable manufactures of coarse woollen cloth, stockings, and flannel, and of tanned leather and gunpowder. The lunatics and idiots in the county amount to *twenty-six* males and *thirty-one* females, but only six males and five females are returned as in confinement. There are no public or private asylums in this county.



## WILTSHIRE.

POPULATION, . { Males.... 108,213 } Total..222,157  
 { Females.. 113,944 }

This rich inland county extends for more than fifty miles from north to south, and nearly forty from east to west. In the northern portion the country is hilly and woody, and the air considered sharp and piercing in winter; but the pasture is so good, that this district has long been famous for its cheese. In the south the soil is rich and fertile; but the middle of the county consists of large open downs, known as Salisbury Plains. A little more than one-half of the whole population are employed in agriculture; and the chief manufactures are the different branches of the clothing trade. The number of lunatics and idiots in the county is stated to be *ninety-six* males and *one hundred and eleven* females. There were thirty-one males and twenty-one females reported dangerous, and one hundred and eleven individuals in confinement. There is no public asylum in Wiltshire; but there are no fewer than six private establishments within this county, containing at present three hundred and eighty-three patients. If, then, we allow one hundred and eleven, returned by the clerk of the peace as confined in private asylums, we have two hundred and seventy-two to add to the number in his return, which will make the total of insane persons in Wiltshire *four hundred and seventy-nine*.



## WORCESTER.

POPULATION..	{ Males..... 90,259 }	} Total.. 184,424
	{ Females.... 94,165 }	

This is an inland county, thirty miles long and twenty broad, in which not more than one-third of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. Iron and salt are the chief manufactures, and perry and cider come next into consideration; but there are also some cloth manufactories and coal mines. The lunatics and idiots amount to *fifty-three* males and *seventy-three* females, and the whole are said to be in confinement,—forty-three in public asylums, and eighty-three in private madhouses. But this return is not complete; as two of the hundreds, being two-elevenths of the whole county, had made no returns to the clerk of the peace.

## YORKSHIRE.

## POPULATION.

East Riding..	{ Males..... 92,761 }	} Total .. 1,173,187
	{ Females.... 97,688 }	
North Riding..	{ Males..... 90,153 }	}
	{ Females.... 93,228 }	
West Riding..	{ Males..... 397,542 }	}
	{ Females.... 401,815 }	

This, by far the largest county in England, measures more than one hundred and fifteen miles from east to west, and above ninety from south to north. The air and soil of so extensive a country must vary considerably. The East Riding is said

to be less healthy than the others, on account of the marshy country bordering upon the sea. Among the hills, or what are called the wolds, the soil is, in general, dry, sandy, and barren. The West Riding is perhaps the most abundant in agricultural produce, and is by far the largest division of the county, and the chief seat of the clothing and iron manufactures. It is said, too, to be healthier than the other two Ridings; and the soil in the valleys is rich and very productive. Oats are much cultivated among the hills that prevail in the western portion of this Riding. The North Riding is a very hilly and barren country. In some parts it affords tolerable grazing, and the valleys are cultivated; but the lead, copper, and coal mines are here the riches of the country, and its manufactures are cloth, stockings, and alum.

In the East Riding, the number of lunatics and idiots is said to be *sixty-five* males and *forty-one* females. Twenty-six males and twenty-two females are in confinement. The agricultural population of this division is about three-eighths of the whole. In the North Riding the agriculturists form rather a larger proportion; and I find, by the return from the clerk of the peace, that the number of lunatics and idiots in this division is *eighty-six* males and *seventy-two* females. In the West Riding, those employed in cultivating the soil do not exceed one-fifth of the population, as the great body of

the people are engaged in manufacturing cloth, cutlery, and iron. The number of lunatics and idiots in this large division of the county is very considerable. The parish returns give *one hundred and eighty-eight* males, and *one hundred and ninety-three* females. Of these, eighty-five males and seventy-eight females are in confinement.

In the West Riding of the county of York, there is one of the best-conducted public lunatic asylums in Europe, which, by the last returns, contained two hundred and fifty-two patients. There is also a large, and now well-conducted, public asylum within the precincts of the city of York, containing one hundred and fifty-seven patients; and there are seven private establishments in the county, which at present are occupied by one hundred and eighty-three patients. The total number of insane persons in the county of York will stand thus:—

In the East Riding, not confined.....	58
In the North Riding, ditto .....	121
In the West Riding, ditto .....	218
In the asylum at Wakefield.....	252
In the asylum at York.....	157
In private asylums.....	183
	<hr/>
	989

Two of the private establishments in the county of York (the Retreat and the Refuge) are for patients belonging to the Society of Friends, and are kept and supported by the members of this religious community. It was in one of these



asylums, “ the Retreat,” near York, that the generally acknowledged doctrines and rational practice of the present day were first brought into notice.

The Christian doctrine of charity and benevolence, which is not only preached, but practised, by the members of the Society of Friends, vulgarly called Quakers, led them to view with horror the treatment the afflicted sufferers underwent in the few public asylums that existed in this kingdom. Nor were they better satisfied with the conduct pursued in private establishments. Humanity, therefore, and a love for their fellow-creatures, led, I believe, in the first instance, to the establishment of their lunatic asylum called the Retreat; and, guided by the true spirit of the religion of Jesus, they directed a certain line of conduct and mode of treatment to be adopted, which, while it secured the patient against doing injury to himself or to others, shewed, at the same time, that he was still considered within the pale of humanity, and was to be dealt with as a fellow-creature.

This undertaking commenced more in that spirit of good works (after all, the best proof of true faith,) which generally guides the actions of this sect, than from any preconceived notion of the propriety or success of such mode of treatment; but it was not long in making itself known,—for, in a very few years, the Quakers’ establishment was visited by every philanthropist,

and held up as a model for all similar hospitals ; and certainly, when I first saw it, it was superior to all other asylums in Great Britain, but still very deficient in some of its arrangements. At present, the York Refuge is not more than equal to several of our public asylums, and very far inferior, in all that concerns the comfort and recovery of the patients, to many of them.

So early as the year 1772, a meeting of the most respectable inhabitants of York, under the auspices of the archbishop, held a meeting at the castle ; when it was unanimously resolved, that a subscription should be entered upon for the establishing an hospital at York for the reception of lunatics, in imitation of what had been done at Newcastle and Manchester ; and the conduct of these two places was held out as a noble example for imitation in the wealthy county of York. In the reasons for establishing a lunatic hospital, which accompanied the resolutions of the first meeting, we are told “ that there were only four hospitals in the kingdom for the reception of lunatics, — two in London, one at Newcastle, and one at Manchester ; that the expense and difficulty attending the admission of a patient discouraged applications for that purpose ; and that, by the unavoidable exclusion or delay in admission of objects, many useful members had been lost to society.” And in a subsequent earnest application to the humane public, published in 1777, we are farther informed, “ that the expense



of sending the lunatic patients from the northern parts of the kingdom to the hospitals of Bedlam or St. Luke's, with the uncertainty of their being received when presented for admission, had induced some humane persons to take the unhappy state of these wretched people into serious consideration ;” and we find, in the account of this hospital, that, during five years in which the subject had been agitated, 5690*l.* had been subscribed, a field of five acres of ground had been purchased, and what was then considered a suitable building finished ; and that this charity, as the *York Lunatic Asylum*, was opened for the reception of patients on the first of November, 1777 ; having been provided, as the governors state, “ for the relief of lunatics being either parish paupers, or belonging to distressed and indigent families.”

In the further history of this asylum, we have a melancholy proof not only of the depravity of human nature, but of the evils to be dreaded, where an institution is to be managed, or any public duty to be performed, by a large body of commissioners or governors, all equal in rank and in responsibility,—a vitiated system, I may be permitted to remark, that was first introduced amongst us by a corrupt and venal government, and has continued to prevail more in this country than in any other. It is the resource of weak minds, and too often seized upon as an available mode of flattering the vanity of some would-be-thought bustling philanthropist, whose vote



is considered necessary to support a ministerial job.

In a numerous body of commissioners, where the duties, often irksome and laborious, are to be performed gratuitously, the responsibility is so divided into fractions, and the duties, however important, are soon viewed as of so trivial a nature, owing to the small fractional portion that is supposed by each commissioner to be properly his share, that they are seldom, after the novelty has worn off, thought worthy of more than a moment's consideration; consequently, the whole are generally performed by a subordinate and paid servant of the commissioners, or by some plodding member of their own body, who, though perhaps the worst qualified, has a delight in making himself busy, or has some selfish object in view, and who knows right well, that if blame shall arise, he will not be taxed with a greater share of it than the rest of his fellow-commissioners, and is therefore equally careless of the intentions with which any measures are undertaken, or the manner in which they are performed.

These remarks may be considered out of place; but I have been led to them by what occurred in the York Lunatic Asylum, — an institution founded upon the best principles and with the most benevolent intentions. Here it appears that the physician (a governor also of the asylum), whose greatest interest it certainly was to get the management into his own

hands, very soon succeeded in his object, (as all interested persons, with an unusual display of zeal, will always succeed); and self-interest having superseded every humane and honourable feeling, the abuses afterwards developed, and proved to have existed for a long series of years, were considered so improbable, and were indeed so disgusting and horrible, that when the question of their existence was first mooted, the whole governing body, with the venerable archbishop at their head, were up in arms; more ready, I fear, to repel what they conceived a groundless and malicious attack upon their characters, than to investigate the truth of the statements made. They had previously voted pieces of plate; and now, with the first accusations before them, passed a unanimous vote of thanks in favour of those who, on further investigation, were found to be the most abandoned and unprincipled of human monsters, and who only found safety from the gallows in committing self-murder.

As it is now conducted, the York asylum is an honour to the county, and amongst the most perfect in the kingdom. The county asylum at Wakefield would perhaps never have existed in its present excellent state, but for the investigations and discoveries made at York. Discussion will always lead to improvement; and in the present instance, the characters involved, and the individuals concerned, gave an importance to the subject that it would not otherwise have obtained.



Besides, before the Wakefield asylum was commenced, the prejudices of the olden time had in some measure given way, and light,—feeble, it may be said,—had already penetrated into even the darkest dungeon of the maniac. Practical men had begun to study the disease for practical purposes; and the York Refuge had proved the good effects of humanity and common sense in dealing with the wayward fancies of lunatics. Therefore, this large county hospital was finished upon the most approved principles of the day, and with facilities for being altered and improved according as our knowledge should increase and our experience become extended. But, above all, the magistrates of the West Riding of York were fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Ellis as the superintendent of this asylum. Dr. Ellis was, I believe, a general medical practitioner at Hull. He had evidently studied the subject with much attention and in the best spirit; for, in a letter which he published at the time, and addressed, I think, to a Mr. Thompson, of Hull, he boldly advocated opinions, which, happily for the institution over which he was called by an enlightened and liberal magistracy to preside, he has had a most favourable opportunity of proving correct.

The annual reports of the lunatic asylum at Wakefield are of themselves sufficient evidence that those who have maintained the doctrine of insanity being a curable disease, and have argued that in almost every case where delay was not allowed to



take place, and where a liberal and rational mode of treatment was adopted, a cure was almost certain,—were not only right in what they stated, but have acquired a claim to national gratitude by the zeal and perseverance with which they supported doctrines that the bulk of mankind either regarded as mere theory, or looked upon as chimerical.

Though I have thus spoken of Wakefield, I have done so chiefly because it was the first establishment of the kind; but now, Lancaster asylum, and, indeed, every county asylum and public establishment in the kingdom, is conducted upon the same principles, and are all equally to be commended; and the old and universally prevalent maxim of “*keep and not cure,*” dare scarcely be breathed even by the most mercenary wretch that ever acquired a license to open a madhouse.

I earnestly and anxiously recommend it to the governors of St. Luke’s hospital to follow the example of the governors of the York asylum, in providing the recreation and labour of a farm for the benefit of the curable and the comfort of the incurable patients in their establishment. York, as well as St. Luke’s, was built at a period when such advantages were not appreciated. It was confined, in like manner, to a certain space within the bounds of a large city; but, guided by the same liberal spirit that dictated the reforms which took place on the detection of the gross abuses that had so long existed in the management of this asylum,

they have, at a very great expense, secured for their patients the advantages of farm and garden labour,—a free and extended range of country, with the benefit of pure air, and an intercourse with living nature, in aid of the most judicious and rational medical treatment.

I know not whence it has arisen, or what foundation there may be for the report, but certainly it is generally said, that St. Luke's hospital is the worst-managed public establishment in England, and that the governors have long been governed by a small but *deeply interested* portion of their own body. Why, it is asked, is the same committee allowed to conduct the affairs of this asylum from year to year, as if they were its sole directors? Are there no others fit for this duty but the thirty respectable gentlemen whose names have so long remained on the list of that general committee? All I can observe is, that thirty is three times too many persons for any committee whose duties are such as ought to be performed by the governors of St. Luke's.



# SUMMARY

OF

## THE NUMBER OF LUNATICS AND IDIOTS

IN THE

### SEVERAL COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.

Counties of ENGLAND.	Number of persons in confinement in England.							Number of Per- sons at large, or with Re- lations.			Total Number of Insane Persons.		
	In Public Asylums.		In Private Asylums.		In Work- houses, &c.		Total number confined.	Males.	Females.	Total at large.	Lunatics.	Idiots.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.							
Bedford .....	32	39	...	...	...	...	71	17	11	28	71	28	99
Berkshire .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	73	134	49	85	134
Buckinghamshire .....	2	8	6	5	...	...	21	60	64	124	21	124	145
Cambridgeshire ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	73	134	34	100	134
Cheshire .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	118	235	89	146	235
Cornwall .....	30	40	...	...	...	...	70	35	28	63	70	63	133
Cumberland .....	3	4	2	3	...	...	12	35	45	80	12	80	92
Derbyshire .....	7	...	10	12	...	...	29	59	56	115	23	121	144
Devonshire .....	17	34	3	...	10	10	74	222	212	434	74	434	508
Dorsetshire .....	...	...	20	22	...	...	42	96	98	194	42	194	236
Durham .....	...	...	60	68	...	...	128	90	100	190	128	190	318
Essex .....	17	20	8	8	...	...	53	133	118	251	53	251	304
Gloucester .....	37	53	14	16	...	...	120	54	69	123	120	123	243
Hereford .....	4	4	1	1	17	31	58	74	20	94	58	94	152
Hertfordshire .....	15	20	5	15	...	...	55	20	27	47	55	47	102
Huntingdon .....	1	...	..	2	...	...	3	16	17	33	3	33	36
Kent .....	...	...	20	20	...	...	40	145	151	296	185	151	336
Lancaster .....	224	225	56	57	...	...	562	121	121	242	562	242	804
Leicestershire.....	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	70	100	170	80	90	170
Lincolnshire .....	29	33	10	30	...	...	102	103	103	206	102	206	308
Middlesex .....	229	304	964	1067	...	...	2564	...	...	...	2564	...	2564
Monmouth .....	1	...	1	9	...	...	11	25	36	61	11	61	72
Norfolk .....	60	71	11	11	...	...	153	57	60	117	153	117	270
Northamptonshire .....	12	14	5	5	...	...	36	98	100	198	31	203	234
Northumberland ..	...	...	76	69	...	...	145	70	71	141	145	141	286
Nottingham .....	30	46	...	...	...	...	76	20	24	44	76	44	120
Oxfordshire .....	8	9	10	10	...	...	37	68	72	140	37	140	177
Rutland .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	12	25	14	12	26
Shropshire .....	...	...	...	...	9	11	20	63	60	123	40	103	143
Somersetshire .....	...	...	70	76	...	...	146	179	100	279	146	279	425
Southampton .....	43	26	1	...	...	...	70	88	68	156	70	156	226
Staffordshire .....	113	74	28	21	...	...	236	106	91	197	236	197	433
Suffolk .....	40	53	...	3	...	...	96	120	152	272	96	272	368
Surry .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	260	380	125	255	380
Sussex .....	...	...	40	52	...	...	92	70	84	154	92	154	246
Warwickshire.....	8	5	29	48	...	...	90	103	100	203	90	203	293
Westmoreland ....	6	...	...	5	...	...	11	20	26	46	11	46	57
Wiltshire .....	...	...	180	203	...	...	383	40	56	96	383	96	479
Worcester .....	20	23	40	43	...	...	126	...	...	...	63	63	126
Yorkshire .....	200	209	100	83	...	...	592	180	217	397	592	397	989
	1189	1314	1770	1964	36	52	6325	3029	3193	6222	6806	5741	12547



By the foregoing table the reader will perceive that there are *twelve thousand five hundred and forty-seven* lunatics and idiots ascertained now, beyond all doubt, as existing in England. But if we consider the many towns which are counties of themselves, and the great number of parishes in some counties that had made no returns to the clerks of the peace when their reports were made up, we shall have, on the most moderate calculation, to add above fifteen hundred to the number stated in the summary now given, which will make the whole number of insane persons in England above *fourteen thousand*, and of whom not fewer than eleven thousand are paupers, and maintained, in a great measure, at the charge of their respective parishes. Taking the whole of England, the average is about one insane person to every thousand of the population; while the insane paupers average one in every thousand five hundred, or rather more. In some counties the proportion is considerably greater than in others; and, as I have already said, the disease appears to be more prevalent in the agricultural districts than amongst the manufacturing population. It is also more frequent in our inland counties than in those that are bounded by the sea, and those who labour in mines are much less subjected to its ravages than those who toil upon the surface of the earth. In Cornwall, the lunatics and idiots are only as one to two thousand of the population; while in Somerset they are as one in

a thousand. But as soon as I can procure the returns for the next year, which I flatter myself will be more complete, I shall endeavour to investigate this part of the subject with more minute attention, both in regard to soil, climate, the trades and occupations, and habits of the people; and try to ascertain the cause of the great disproportion of numbers in districts still more alike than the two counties I have mentioned. I now proceed to analyse the Welsh counties.

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NOTE.

The Mr. Brown, mentioned page 13, is FRANCIS JOHN BROWNE, Esq. of Frampton, near Dorchester, one of the representatives of the county of Dorset during several parliaments.

## PRINCIPALITY OF WALES.

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### ANGLESEY.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 21,784 } *Total..* 45,063  
                  { Females ... 23,279 }

THIS is an island and county of North Wales situated in the Irish sea, and separated from the main land by what is called the Menai strait. It is of a triangular form, but its figure is irregular, extending for about twenty miles from north-west to south-east, while in breadth it is about seventeen miles. The climate is temperate, but fogs are frequent in autumn, which, it is thought, occasions agues among the inhabitants. There is considerable variety in the soil of this county, which, for the most part, and especially about the middle of the island, is reddish earth. Anglesey is extremely rich in minerals. Copper ore is found within a few feet of the surface, forming a connected mass or bed sometimes sixty feet in thickness, and yielding about 25 per cent of pure metal. Lead ore, containing a fair proportion of silver, is also abundant. Coal is obtained in considerable quantity; and green marble, equal to the verd antique of the Romans,



is dug from its quarries. Though much of the soil is light, it is fertile; and rather more than two-thirds of the whole population are employed in agriculture. Grain and cattle are, therefore, the chief products of Anglesey. This little territory, which was sometimes an independent state, and at other times subjected to the princes of Wales, is supposed to have been the very *sanctum sanctorum* of the druidical religion. It returns *twenty-four* males and *twenty-seven* females as the total number of lunatics and idiots in the island. Only two males and five females are said to be dangerous; and the whole number are taken care of by their relations, being for the most part harmless idiots; and not one is confined in any asylum.

#### BRECKNOCK, OR BRECONSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males . . . . . 21,853 } Total .. 43,613  
 { Females . . . . . 21,760 }

This is an inland county of South Wales, about thirty-five miles in length and thirty in breadth; and about one-third of the whole county may be said to be a waste, and unfit for cultivation. It is intersected by two long ranges of mountains on the north and south; and, besides other detached mountains, *the Vann*, or Brecknock beacon, the highest mountain in South Wales, is within its boundaries. Copper, lead, abundance of iron ores, with coal and limestone, are found in this county. There is, of course, much diversity of

soil in a country so hilly ; but, though more than one-half of the population is engaged in agricultural labour, few improvements are attempted in farming, from the difficulty of obtaining any adequate returns. There is a trifling manufacture of woollen cloth and of worsted stockings, and some wool is exported. The total number of lunatics and idiots in this county is *seventeen* males and *twenty-seven* females. Two males and three females are reported dangerous, but only one (a male, in the Hereford county asylum,) requires to be confined.

#### CARDIGAN.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 27,898 } *Total.. 57,784*  
                           { Females ... 29,886 }

The south and west of this county are, perhaps, more open and less hilly than any district of the same extent in the principality ; the climate, therefore, is mild and pleasant, and the soil well cultivated and fruitful. The northern and eastern division is mountainous and barren, though it affords, comparatively speaking, such excellent grazing that it has been considered the best nursery for cattle in England. Near the town of Aberystwith there are rich mines of lead ore. A little more than one-half of the inhabitants of this county are employed in agriculture ; and the number of lunatics and idiots, as returned by the clerk of the peace, is *forty-six* males and *fifty* females ; but only five males and seven females

are returned as dangerous, and one male and five females in confinement with their relations, there being no public or private asylum in the county. Cardiganshire is bounded on the west by the Irish sea, and is said to be forty miles in length, and about eighteen in breadth.

#### CARMARTHEN.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males..... 43,577} \\ \text{Females ... 46,662} \end{array} \right\} \text{Total .. 90,239}$

This county is nearly thirty-five miles in length from north to south, and about twenty in breadth from east to west. The air of Carmarthenshire is reckoned more mild and healthy than the generality of the counties of Wales; and being less mountainous than most of them, it is better cultivated. Nearly two-thirds of the population are employed in agriculture, and it abounds in coal-mines. The lunatics and idiots are returned at *seventy-one* males and *sixty-eight* females. Eight males and four females are reported dangerous; but only one, a female, the murderer of her father, is in confinement in the county gaol.

#### CARNARVONSHIRE.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males..... 28,412} \\ \text{Females.... 29,546} \end{array} \right\} \text{Total .. 57,958}$

This county, which is bounded on three of its sides by the Irish sea, is nearly forty miles in length and twenty in breadth. The air is said to be cold and piercing, on account of the high



mountains and extensive lakes that abound in this county. The mountains of Snowdon, which are in Carnarvonshire, are often covered with snow during the whole year. There are no manufactures in the county. Two-thirds of the people are employed in agriculture, and the remainder in fishing. The lunatics and idiots are about *twenty-six* males and *forty-two* females. Ten males and six females are reported dangerous. But this must be considered a very imperfect statement, as by far the greater number of parishes in this county had made no returns to the clerk of the peace when he made up his report for me.

#### DENBIGH.

POPULATION...  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots\dots 37,785 \\ \text{Females} \dots\dots 38,726 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 76,511$

This county extends in length, from north to south, nearly forty miles, and is about twenty in breadth. It is almost surrounded by a vast chain of mountains, which renders the climate cold, but it is said to be very healthy. Welsh flannel is manufactured here to some extent, and a number of people are also engaged in making gloves; but very nearly three-fifths of the whole are employed in agriculture. The lunatics and idiots in the county are *thirty-three* males and *twenty-six* females. Five males and five females are reported dangerous, and eight males and nine females are in confinement,—three in a public

and fourteen in a private asylum. Several parishes in this county, also, were deficient in their returns to the clerk of the peace.

#### FLINTSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 26,733 } *Total* .. 53,784  
                           { Females.... 27,051 }

This county, the smallest in Wales, forms a strip of country nearly thirty miles in length, and not more than eight in breadth; and as the soil is good, and the surface of the country is less mountainous than many others in the principality, it is more cultivated, though a great proportion of the inhabitants are employed in working the lead and coal mines with which it abounds. Not quite one-half are returned as employed in agriculture. The lunatics and idiots amount to *eighteen* males and *twenty-five* females. Two males and five females are reported dangerous, and two males and two females are confined in a public asylum.

#### GLAMORGAN.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 50,427 } *Total* .. 101,737  
                           { Females ... 51,310 }

This is by far the most populous county in Wales, and is bounded by what is called the British channel on the south. It is forty-eight miles in length, and twenty-seven in breadth. The northern division of Glamorganshire is

barren mountains and fruitful valleys; but the south division consists of a rich, well-cultivated soil, and is so fruitful and pleasant, we are told, as to be called the garden of Wales. Coal and lead ore are found in the mountains, and not much more than one-third of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. This is the only county in the kingdom that has taken no notice of my application for a return of the number of lunatics and idiots. According to private information, they amount to *seventy-six* males and *seventy-six* females.

#### MERIONETHSHIRE.

POPULATION..  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \dots\dots 16,479 \\ \text{Females} \dots\dots 17,903 \end{array} \right\} \text{Total} \dots 34,382$

This is a very thinly inhabited county, for it is thirty-five miles in length and twenty-five in breadth, and is one hundred and eight miles in circumference. The soil is rocky and mountainous, and is considered the least productive in Wales, though it is said to feed more sheep than all the rest of the principality. Exactly one-half of the population are returned as employed in agriculture, and there are considerable cotton manufactures in the county. The lunatics and idiots are *ten* males and *eighteen* females; but when the clerk of the peace sent me his return, a number of parishes had failed in making their report.



## MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 29,743 } Total .. 59,899  
 { Females ... 30,156 }

This is an inland county, nearly thirty miles long and twenty-five broad. In the north and west parts the county is mountainous and barren, but in the south and east it forms a rich vale along the banks of the Severn. There is some lead ore found in this county, and flannel is manufactured; but very nearly two-thirds of the whole population are employed in agriculture. The lunatics and idiots in this county amount to *fifty-seven* males and *sixty-seven* females, according to the return of the clerk of the peace.

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males ..... 34,530 } Total .. 74,009  
 { Females.... 39,479 }

This county forms the south-west extremity of Wales, and is twenty-six miles in length, and about twenty in breadth. The soil is fertile; and forming, as it does, a kind of peninsula, the climate is moist, but temperate and healthy. Rather more than one-half of the population are employed in agriculture. Coal and culm are found in abundance, but there is no manufacture of any note. The lunatics and idiots amount to *forty* males and *thirty-five* females. Eight males and one female are reported dangerous; seven males are confined in a public asylum, and one female in a private establishment. In addition to the above, there is

one male and one female in the hospital of the town and county of Haverfordwest, with five others belonging to that town and county; which makes the total number of insane persons in Pembrokeshire *eighty-two*.

#### RADNORSHIRE.

POPULATION.. { Males..... 11,266 } *Total* .. 22,459  
                           { Females..... 11,193 }

This is an inland county, measuring about twenty-four miles by twenty-two, and consisting, for a great part, of rocks and barren mountains, and, even where cultivated, of an indifferent soil. More than three-fourths of the people are employed in agriculture. The lunatics and idiots amount to *ten*; *six* males and *four* females. Two males are said to be dangerous, and one of them is confined in the Gloucester asylum.

There is no public establishment for the treatment of lunatics in the whole district of Wales, except at Haverfordwest, where at present thirteen individuals are in confinement.

# SUMMARY

OF

## THE NUMBER OF LUNATICS AND IDIOTS

IN THE

### SEVERAL COUNTIES OF WALES.

Counties of WALES.	Number of Persons in confinement in Wales.							Number of Per- sons at large, or with their Relations.			Total Number of Insane Per- sons in Wales.		
	In Public Asylums.		In Private Asylums.		In Work- houses, &c.		Total number confined.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Lunatics.	Idiots.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.							
Anglesey.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	27	51	7	44	51
Breconshire .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	27	43	5	39	44
Cardigan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	50	96	12	84	96
Carmarthen .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	71	67	138	12	127	139
Carnarvon .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	42	68	16	52	68
Denbighshire .....	1	2	6	8	...	...	17	26	16	42	17	42	59
Flintshire .....	2	2	...	...	...	...	4	16	23	39	7	36	43
Glamorgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	76	152	16	136	152
Merioneth .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	18	28	4	24	28
Montgomeryshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	67	124	12	112	124
Pembrokeshire ....	8	5	...	1	...	...	14	33	35	68	23	59	82
Radnorshire .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	4	9	2	8	10
	13	10	6	9	...	...	38	406	452	858	133	763	896

From the above summary it appears that a very large proportion of the insane persons in Wales are idiots ; that very few are in any place of refuge ; and, though only *eight hundred and ninety-six* are ascertained to be in existence, we may reasonably conclude, from the great number of parishes that have made no returns, the true amount can be fairly estimated above *one thousand* persons. But, taking the number as



actually ascertained by authentic returns, the total amount for England and Wales will stand thus :—

By the returns of the clerks of the peace of the several counties of England, it is ascertained that there exist.....	12,547
By the returns of the clerks of the peace in Wales.....	896
By a return from the Victualling Board, it is found that there are in the naval asylum at Haslar .....	155
By a return from the Army Medical Department, there are in the military asylum at Chatham .....	122
	<hr/>
TOTAL .....	13,720

Having thus ascertained that very nearly fourteen thousand insane persons do actually exist in this part of the United Kingdom, I am certain it is no exaggerated statement to estimate the numbers not returned at two thousand five hundred.

Previous to 1815, the lunatics belonging to our navy and army were generally sent to one of the large private establishments in the neighbourhood of London, where, like parish paupers, they were received at a regular contract price, and where, as was proved before the committee of the House of Commons, their cure or their comfort were matters of very secondary consideration. Soon after Sir James Macgrigor came to the head of the medical department of the army, he formed the resolution of establishing a distinct military

hospital for the treatment of this disease; and government having given up to the department a military station called Fort Clarence, in the neighbourhood of the general hospital at Chatham, it has been occupied as a lunatic hospital for the last sixteen years. A military fort was certainly not the most desirable building out of which to form an hospital for the sick; yet, with all its inconveniences, it has been made a very comfortable asylum, and no where have the efforts of medical science, and the sound common-sense principles of moral management, been more successful than at Fort Clarence.

The manner in which this establishment was formed and has been conducted does the greatest credit to Sir James Macgrigor, and the able officers who, from time to time, have had the medical charge of the patients; and considering the length of time that has generally elapsed, the cause (almost always wounds or climate) of the disease, and the severity of the symptoms when the patients, whether officers or men, are brought to Chatham,—taking all these, as they must be taken, into our account, I will venture to add, that the cures (*bonâ fide* cures) in this military asylum are equal to those of any public or private establishment in the empire.

The naval asylum was established nearly about the same time with the military asylum. It is within the precincts of the royal naval hospital at Haslar, and forms a part of that well-

conducted establishment; but, till within a very late period, when Dr. Burnett's active and energetic mind began to infuse some of his own spirit into the medical department of the navy, I rather think the naval lunatic asylum was conducted too much upon the principles of the old school to excite any great degree of approbation or deserve any marked censure. The patients were confined and kindly treated; but the cure of their malady did not excite any very serious attention, nor was it considered as a matter of much importance.

The population of England in 1821 was eleven millions two hundred and sixty-one thousand four hundred and thirty-seven; being an increase, in ten years, of nearly two millions. If we allow one million and a half as the increase of the population of this portion of the kingdom since the last census was taken, we shall have for England 12,700,000, or nearly so, which will make the number of our insane population, as ascertained, about one in every thousand for England.

The population in Wales was, in 1821, seven hundred and seventeen thousand four hundred and thirty-eight, and it had increased, in ten years, one hundred and five thousand; we may, therefore, add one hundred thousand for the eight years that have elapsed since the last census was taken, consequently the population of Wales will be 817,438; and as the number of lunatics ascertained to exist amounts to eight hundred and



ninety-six, and as the returns are very incomplete, the proportion may be calculated at one for every eight hundred of the population.

Our army and navy may be taken at nearly the same amount as in 1821; or say 300,000. The insane officers and men of both services amount to two hundred and seventy-nine; the difference between these services and the casualties in civil life is, therefore, very trifling.

I cannot close this brief Report without referring to Scotland, where the proportion of lunatics to the total population of the kingdom so far exceeds that of England and Wales.

The population of Scotland, in 1821, was two millions ninety-three thousand four hundred and fifty-six; and by my returns from the several parishes, which are corrected with great attention and accuracy, the number of insane persons in Scotland in the same year, viz. 1821, was three thousand six hundred and fifty-two, being about one to every five hundred and seventy-four of the population. In England, scarcely one-third of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture; in Wales, more than one-half are so employed; while in Scotland the number is not quite one-third of the whole population, according to the parliamentary returns. But I much doubt the correctness of these returns as regards the number of families engaged in agricultural labour in Scotland. Indeed, I can positively state, that

they are most incorrect in almost every county, from the import of the question having been misunderstood. In the county of Dumfries, for example, which returns 14,458 families, or 70,878 inhabitants, it is stated, that only 4340 families are engaged in agriculture, being much less than one-third of the whole number of inhabitants; while, to my certain knowledge, not quite one-fourth of the people of this county have any other means of subsistence but by agricultural labour. Nay, in many parishes that I could name, where not one-tenth of the families in the parish are engaged either in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, often more than nine-tenths are stated to be so employed; and on looking carefully into every other county, I can detect the same inaccuracies. So that, instead of being less than one-third, as given in the population returns, I would estimate the agricultural population of Scotland, (that is, the persons actually employed in the growing of corn or rearing of cattle,) at two-thirds of the whole of its inhabitants. One or two counties have, indeed, considerable manufactures, and in some of the large towns and sea-ports there is no want of trade, while the coal-miners and iron-founders may be included among the handicraft, and all other families not comprised in any of the preceding classes. But still Scotland is, to all intents and purposes, an agricultural country: nature has so formed it; and









